

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4790

To recognize hunting heritage and provide opportunities for continued hunting
on public lands.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 29, 2000

Mr. CHAMBLISS (for himself, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. HANSEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To recognize hunting heritage and provide opportunities for
continued hunting on public lands.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Hunting Heritage Pro-
5 tection Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Recreational hunting is an important and
2 traditional recreational activity in which 14,000,000
3 Americans 16 years of age and older participate.

4 (2) Hunters have been and continue to be
5 among the foremost supporters of sound wildlife
6 management and conservation practices in the
7 United States.

8 (3) Persons who hunt and organizations related
9 to hunting provide direct assistance to wildlife man-
10 agers and enforcement officers of Federal, State,
11 and local governments.

12 (4) Purchases of hunting licenses, permits, and
13 stamps and excise taxes on goods used by hunters
14 have generated billions of dollars for wildlife con-
15 servation, research, and management.

16 (5) Recreational hunting is an essential compo-
17 nent of effective wildlife management, in that it is
18 an important tool for reducing conflicts between peo-
19 ple and wildlife and provides incentives for the con-
20 servation of wildlife and habitats and ecosystems on
21 which wildlife depends.

22 (6) Each State has established at least one
23 agency staffed by professionally trained wildlife
24 management personnel, that has legal authority to
25 manage the wildlife in the State.

1 (7) Recreational hunting is an environmentally
2 acceptable activity that occurs and can be provided
3 for on Federal public land and water without ad-
4 verse effects on other uses of that land and water.

5 **SEC. 3. RECREATIONAL HUNTING.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Federal public land and water
7 shall be open to access and use for recreational hunting
8 except—

9 (1) as limited by the Federal agency with re-
10 sponsibility for Federal public land or water—

11 (A) for reasons of national security;

12 (B) for reasons of public safety; or

13 (C) for reasons specifically authorized in
14 applicable Federal statutes as reasons for clo-
15 sure; and

16 (2) as recreational hunting is limited by the
17 State in which the Federal public land or water is
18 located.

19 (b) MANAGEMENT.—The head of each Federal agen-
20 cy with authority to manage a natural resource or public
21 land or water on which a natural resource depends shall
22 exercise that authority, consistent with subsection (a), in
23 a manner so as to support, promote, and enhance rec-
24 reational hunting opportunities, to the extent authorized

1 under State law and regulation and in accordance with
 2 applicable Federal law.

3 (c) NO NET LOSS.—Federal land management deci-
 4 sions and actions should, to the greatest extent prac-
 5 ticable, result in no net loss of hunting opportunities on
 6 public lands.

7 (d) AREAS ADMINISTERED BY THE NATIONAL PARK
 8 SERVICE.—This Act shall not be construed to compel the
 9 opening to recreational hunting of national parks or na-
 10 tional monuments administered by the National Park
 11 Service.

12 (e) NO PRIORITY.—This section does not require a
 13 Federal agency to give preference to hunting over other
 14 uses of Federal public land or water, or over land or water
 15 management priorities established in Federal law.

16 (f) AUTHORITY OF THE STATES.—This Act shall not
 17 be construed to impair the primacy of State authority in
 18 regulating the taking of fish and wildlife on land or water
 19 within the State, including Federal public land or water.

20 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL RECREATIONAL HUNTING COORDINA-**
 21 **TION COUNCIL.**

22 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is hereby established a
 23 National Recreational Hunting Coordination Council (in
 24 this Act referred to as the “Council”).

25 (b) DUTIES.—The Council shall—

1 (1) ensure that Federal agencies consider the
2 social and economic values of healthy wildlife habi-
3 tats that support recreational hunting;

4 (2) make available to the public the latest re-
5 source information and management technologies to
6 assist in the conservation and management of wild-
7 life and the provision of recreational hunting oppor-
8 tunities;

9 (3) assess the implementation of the plan re-
10 quired under subsection (e);

11 (4) prepare a biennial report of accomplish-
12 ments under such plan; and

13 (5) review and evaluate Federal policies and ac-
14 tivities that affect hunting opportunities.

15 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

16 (1) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Council
17 shall consist of 11 members appointed as follows:

18 (A) 1 member appointed by the Secretary
19 of the Interior.

20 (B) 1 member appointed by the Secretary
21 of Agriculture.

22 (C) 1 member appointed by the Secretary
23 of Defense.

24 (D) 1 member appointed by the Speaker of
25 the House of Representatives.

1 (E) 1 member appointed by the minority
2 leader of the House of Representatives.

3 (F) 1 member appointed by the majority
4 leader of the Senate.

5 (G) 1 member appointed by the minority
6 leader of the Senate.

7 (H) 2 members appointed by the President
8 from among the directors of State fish and
9 wildlife agencies.

10 (I) 2 members appointed by the President
11 to represent recreational hunters.

12 (2) TERMS.—Each member shall be appointed
13 for a term of 2 years.

14 (3) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Council
15 shall be filled in the manner in which the original
16 appointment was made. Any member appointed to
17 fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the
18 term for which the member's predecessor was ap-
19 pointed shall be appointed only for the remainder of
20 that term.

21 (4) PAY.—Each member shall serve without
22 pay.

23 (5) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member shall
24 receive travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of

1 subsistence, in accordance with sections 5702 and
2 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

3 (6) CHAIRPERSON.—The President shall des-
4 ignate the Chairperson of the Commission from
5 among its members.

6 (d) POWERS OF COUNCIL.—

7 (1) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Council
8 may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold
9 hearings, sit and act at times and places, take testi-
10 mony, and receive evidence as the Council considers
11 appropriate.

12 (2) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—Any
13 member or agency of the Council may, if authorized
14 by the Council, take any action which the Council is
15 authorized to take by this subsection.

16 (e) RECREATIONAL HUNTING RESOURCES CON-
17 SERVATION PLAN.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 12 months
19 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
20 Council, in cooperation with Federal agencies,
21 States, and tribes, and after consulting the hunting
22 community, shall develop a Comprehensive Rec-
23 reational Hunting and Wildlife Resource Conserva-
24 tion Plan.

1 (2) AGENDA.—Such plan shall recommend a 5-
2 year agenda for Federal agencies identified in the
3 plan and shall include—

4 (A) measurable objectives to conserve and
5 restore wildlife habitats that support viable and
6 healthy wildlife resources that may be hunted;

7 (B) actions to be taken by such agencies to
8 ensure and facilitate hunting access to appro-
9 priate public lands, including Department of
10 Defense lands where provision of hunting op-
11 portunities is consistent with national security;
12 and

13 (C) a comprehensive mechanism to evalu-
14 ate the achievements of the agenda.

15 (3) INTEGRATION.—To the extent practicable,
16 the Council in developing such plan shall integrate
17 it with existing plans and programs, reduce duplica-
18 tion, and include recommended actions for coopera-
19 tion with States, tribes, wildlife conservation groups,
20 and the hunting community.

21 (4) UPDATING.—The Council may update such
22 plan.

23 (f) TERMINATION.—The Council shall terminate 10
24 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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